

EMU MSW Behavioral Health Care Workforce Fellowship Program
Eastern Michigan University, School of Social Work
Fellowship Application Announcement, Winter 2016

February 2, 2016

To: Advanced Field Placement MSW students

The MSW Behavioral Health Care Workforce Fellowship Program (EMU MSW BH Fellowship Program) is open to twenty-five students enrolling in advanced field beginning in the fall 2016. The fellowship is available because of a three year grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). The application form and the process for application is posted on the HRSA Fellowship website.

Applicant qualifications

Successful applicants must:

- communicate their commitment to the social work profession
- be able to articulate their understanding of ways in which individual social workers can improve the behavioral health of children, adolescents, and transition age youth regardless of which service sector they may be placed, and
- demonstrate their leadership potential as a generalist social worker
- Eligible for graduation by August 2017, a semester after Advance Field Placement

Fellowship Purpose

The Fellowship Program is designed to increase the number of MSW graduates who are prepared to serve children, adolescents, and transition-aged youth at-risk for, or in need of, behavioral health interventions. The fellowship program will prepare advanced MSW students for employment across the continuum of child-serving systems and organizations (child welfare, juvenile justice, community programs for homeless youth, substance abuse and violence prevention programs, anti-truancy and behavior problems in the schools, prevention programs for young parents, and community mental health). Fifteen Fellowships were awarded in 2014, twenty-three were awarded in 2015 and twenty-five fellowships will be awarded in 2016.

Fellowship requirements

Advanced Field Placement students (students entering their advanced field internship in the fall of 2016) accepted into the EMU MSW Fellowship Program will be required to attend an orientation for new fellows during the Fall 2016 semester, enroll in (or audit and complete all assignments in) a one credit hour elective course that will be offered during the Fellowship/advanced placement year, and complete a project that will provide their placement organization with information about a best practice option that could enhance their ability to serve their clients at risk for, or in need of behavioral health interventions. Students will also attend monthly Fellowship meetings beginning after the orientation in September and culminating in a final presentation of their project. Students will submit a proposal to present their project at a professional conference. (Funding will be available if the project is accepted.)

The deadline for submission of the application is March 1, 2016. Students applying must graduate by August 2017, a semester after their advance field placement to be eligible.

Fellowship placement options

While some students must complete their advanced field placement at their worksite, others are able to take advantage of placements with a wide variety of organizations across southeast Michigan. There are some designated HRSA placements within the advanced field placement options that HRSA Fellows will be eligible to apply for once the Fellowship selection process has been completed. Options include placement at the Washtenaw County Court, the Family Assessment Center in Washtenaw County working with children who have been sexually

abused, and placement options in a wide variety of settings in Wayne County connected to the Community Mental Health System. This last option includes placements with CMH providers who serve infants, toddlers, children, youth and young adults in community mental health outpatient settings, prevention programming, and policy development and evaluation settings. Placements supported by Detroit- Wayne Mental Health Authority will also provide students with the training required to take advantage of these practice settings and to be ready to move into jobs in the county upon graduation. DWMHA is particularly interested in students who plan on making Michigan their home and who may be looking at employment in Wayne County as an option after graduation.

Fellowship Benefits

Fellows will receive the following benefits:

- A stipend of \$10,000 to be dispersed over the course of the advanced placement semesters. The stipend is meant to be used by the Fellow as support for living expenses but can be used in any way the student decides. Please read the description of the restrictions around the stipend and the rest of the student aid for which you apply under the stipend section of the website.
- Advanced training in Evidence Based Practice -- how to identify and implement (with the client at the center of the process) interventions that have been empirically tested and found to be effective.
- A seminar targeted on the inter-disciplinary nature of achieving wellness – how to partner across disciplines to support the whole person.
- Training in culturally and linguistically appropriate practice.

Field supervisors will receive the following benefits:

- \$1,600 will be given to the agency to enable them to provide appropriate levels of support to the Fellowship students. The money may be used to further train field supervisors in how to work with students, give field supervisors opportunities to gain skills in areas of practice students need support in, or to provide funds to complete the student project.
- Field supervisors will be eligible to sign up for up to 8 CE credits from EMU to further support their ability to provide support to students.

Application Process

Interested applicants should complete the application including providing a letter of support from an MSW currently working in an agency setting (it doesn't have to be your field placement) that speaks to your potential to become a leader in the field and a copy of your current transcript. (An unofficial transcript downloaded from "emich" will suffice). A team made up of faculty, EMU field supervisors and EMU graduates will serve as members of the selection team. Applicants will be considered based on their standing in the program, letter of support and quality of application.

Send your completed application, resume, letter of support and transcripts to:

MSWBHfellowshipprogram@emich.edu

Use the form included in the application packet to explain the fellowship to the person you are asking to provide a letter of support for your application. The letter should be from someone who has knowledge of your practice experience and can write a letter of support for your fellowship application.

An explanation of how the fellowship stipend money is connected to your total student aid package is outlined on the fellowship web page. Also on the web page is a list of the past fellows and a short over view of the projects they are working on in their field placement.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at the Fellowship email address (above) or through my regular email or office phone listed below.

Sincerely,

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